

CARTHA D. DeLOACH  
96 PERKINS ROAD  
GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT 06830

Honorable William H. Webster  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C. 20535

June 9, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. Leonard H. Goldenson  
President  
American Broadcasting Companies, Inc.  
1330 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10019

Dear Leonard:

*American Broadcasting Company*  
We have known each other for many years and, I believe, have always enjoyed a mutual respect and a very good working relationship. This is shown by the fact that I worked with you and your personnel on the highly successful FBI TV series which ran for nine years, and the ABC Sunday afternoon radio commentary in which I served as the official FBI spokesman. Because of this relationship, and because of the false image presented, I am writing to lodge a strong personal protest about the arbitrary and unfair portrayal of the FBI and its former director on ABC television June 3, 1982.

I was appalled and saddened by the fact that this documentary on Mr. Hoover turned out to be what one respected TV reviewer called "Monday morning quarterbacking of the worst type."

When I was approached to cooperate in the preparation of this program, I was assured that it was intended to be an evenhanded evaluation of the man and his leadership developed through extensive interviews of Hoover associates and adversaries. Under no circumstances was it to be deliberately designed to denigrate the man or damage the agency he headed for many years. On the basis of that assurance, coupled with the fact that I had been asked by the FBI to agree to be interviewed, I cooperated fully with your people on two separate occasions.

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Mr. Leonard H. Goldenson

Much to my subsequent dismay, I found that my contribution to the program was reduced to two exceedingly brief appearances, followed immediately by attempts to brand me as a liar through the use of completely uncorroborated rebuttals by two well-known critics of Mr. Hoover and the FBI.

Let me assure you that I never had possession of the King tapes at any time, and if I had, I would never have offered them to either The Washington Post or its subsidiary Newsweek Magazine. I should hope you credit me with better judgment than that! Long ago I became fed up with the whining of a certain former attorney general who constantly complained that he did not know what was going on when he held that position. I think his admissions of his own inadequacies is answer enough to any remarks he may have had on the subject of law enforcement.

If this program was not to be an out-and-out hatchet job from the beginning, please tell me why so much of the hour was devoted to the unverified personal opinions of adversaries who have a history of seizing every opportunity presented to them to destroy Mr. Hoover and weaken the FBI. True, the man had his warts as all of us do, but did that justify using the majority of the hour in downplaying his accomplishments while only grudgingly acknowledging that despite his faults, he built a law enforcement agency that was recognized as the best in the world? To say nothing of the man's lifetime of devotion to the service of his country.

When I agreed to help in the preparation of this program, I had hoped it would be a balanced examination and assessment of the man and the agency. Instead, the public was given a rehash of tired old claims of mismanagement of investigations, long ago proven baseless, and slanted explanations of why certain actions were taken coupled with many instances of innuendo and outright distortion. What purpose was served to carp about the fact that he was devoted to his mother, that he

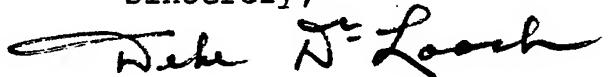
Mr. Leonard H. Goldenson

never left the United States or that he remained a lifelong bachelor? What sort of reporting makes smarmy reference to the fact that Clyde Tolson was a trusted and devoted aide and then go on to piously assure the audience that Mr. Hoover was never proved to be a homosexual? I hardly think this tripe represents the best in journalistic standards.

The fact that the present FBI director refused to participate in this documentary is a credit to him in spite of the show's apparent attempt to end the hour by intimating that his refusal was an implied criticism of the Hoover administration of the FBI.

It saddens me to admit that the recent slanted CBS attack on the reputation of General William Westmoreland and the ABC distortion of J. Edgar Hoover's distinguished career has led me to agree with the suggestions that television news "safeguards" for fairness and accuracy need tightening, if not wholesale revision.

Sincerely,



C. D. DeLoach

June 30, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. Cartha D. DeLoach  
96 Perkins Road  
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

Dear Deke:

C. D. DeLoach

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your June 9th letter to Leonard Goldenson. As was expected, I have received several letters taking issue with the ABC program, and it is encouraging to know that whenever the need arises you and other former Agents continue to support the Bureau.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Bill

William H. Webster  
Director

1 - Mr. Young - Enclosure

NOTE: Salutation per prior correspondence.

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